

Kalnins
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AECOR

SECURITY INFORMATION

192-CWUSS

SUBJECT: Bruno Kalnins

TO: Chief, ZAGACTUS

ATTN:

REFERENCE: 188-CSSTU

INFO: [REDACTED]
Frankfurt, Germany
ATTN: [REDACTED]

1. Reference dispatch has been studied here with interest and we regret the delay in forwarding a detailed answer to your proposals. After considerable discussion we have concluded that only very limited and anonymous use of Kalnins is advisable due to his tremendously controversial role in politics.

2. We do not presume to have the final answer as to the motives which led Kalnins to serve as Political Commissar of the Latvian Army under the Soviets, nor to know whether the charges leveled against him by the Ulmanis regime were true or false. However, we do feel confident that he is considered guilty on both counts by a great many Latvians and that particularly as a result of his short service under the Soviets, he has lost the respect of the majority of Latvians at home and abroad. While in complete agreement with your view that liberal emigre spokesmen should be heard, we do not feel that Kalnins is the appropriate instrument. His natural assets as a leader of the Social Democratic party seem to be outweighed by his vulnerability to the charge of collaboration and the bitterness of the accusations against him.

3. Although the Communist tie is our paramount reason for rejecting Kalnins there are in addition several secondary points while temperance should perhaps not be expected of a member of the perpetual opposition, Kalnins' seeming antipathy for all members of the Ulmanis regime and his charges against them do seem extreme. So far as we can determine he represented a minority in the days of Latvian independence and, inasmuch as he carries the old charges into exile, represents a very small minority indeed. The information available here has led us to believe that the argument between the Ulmanists and the parliamentarians is at present a relatively dead issue, or at least one which can remain dormant until liberation.

4. As a last consideration, we are somewhat loathe to take any steps to increase Kalnins' stature at a time when we would welcome some unification of the emigration. Whatever one's views of the

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Uzmanist government, the fact remains that Feldmans is still an accredited representative to this country. Accordingly it may be presumed that any overall Latvian emigre organization which might be created would almost have to have his blessing and would probably have to include ex-Uzmanist ministers. With this in mind it seems that any encouragement or support given to Kalnins might in effect be similar to arming the rival camps while at the same time hoping for peace.

5. There remains the possibility that if Kalnins' is willing, some of his writings might be used anonymously with good effect--the hope being that we could thereby utilize the left wing arguments without labeling them with his name. If you have any idea on the usefulness and feasibility of such a project, or specific suggestions as to how it might be worked out please advise us.

6. Comments on attachment G to ref. 1 will follow shortly.

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